

**From:** Brian Fahrlander  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/7/01 7:02pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I've watched as Microsoft overthrew the CP/M operating system back around the late 70's. Early on, it was good thing- more power, more options, more flexibility and every day a new thing for consumers.

But in 1995, Bill Gates was able to tell thousands of hardware people, "Give me details, or get shut out" and while that was an important unifying power, that power went to his head.

Show me a difference, for example, between the different versions of Microsoft Word as it went from 95, 97, 2000, and beyond. Other than fixing a minor bug here or there, it's almost identical throughout the lineage, yet buying a new copy (so you could still communicate with your friends and co-workers who'd already upgraded) each new version was still nearly \$200.

...but thank God they finally killed "Clippy" in Excel, which is the same way. Excel is another example of buy-because-he-says-so. And when they released Access, they released a flawed, bloated, overcomplicated mechanism that would "eat itself" when enough data had been saved.

It's sad. Really, very sad. I've been a supporter for almost 20 years now. But one day after rebooting 20+ times to fix another hardware/software glitch [knowing full well that both were MADE to work together, FCOL], I took up my friend's urging and tried Linux. It was crap, but it was honest crap. Very "old Unix" styled, but that was changing. Not just once a quarter, but every day.

That's been almost 5-6 years ago now. Not one day in that time have I booted Windows software on my desktop. I've been living without Microsoft for that long....IT'S A WONDER I'M STILL ALIVE. :)

But think about it- when MS screws up, who can you sue? When there's a bug, what's the resolution? Wait on the 900 number for a minimum of 2 hours and hope they don't say "re-install", like they often do.

Linux is different: There are search engines- just look up your problem by entering keywords. Any problem you have, others have had weeks ago. New versions are available seemingly all the time. And the maintenance of it is SO much easier. No viruses, no BS problems that can't be resolved.

It's not nice, but it IS fair to compare Gates/Microsoft with Hitler: In the beginning he provided unparalleled growth of a third-world country with an inferiority complex and in only 10 years became a world power. But without anyone knowing, several million people were brutally hurt by this power, and it had to be stopped.

LISTEN TO CRINGELY: he's one of the few guys that really understands the problem and writes a column. And if he likes this Steve Satchell guy then he's probably a good, fair, honest, stand-up guy.

As the code is written now, Microsoft isn't penalized by your action, it's strengthened. It can just "secrefy" the code and prohibit anyone from developing with it in the future. Microsoft's become a rude, mean, two-faced machine for hypnotizing people and raking out their pockets.

(Why else would viruses still exist in Windows after 18 years and they don't exist in Linux!)

PLEASE, PLEASE reconsider your actions. My life, and millions more will be effected by blind paperwork.

(See my signature!)

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